10/069401 Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 6 FEB 2002

In re application of

Satoshi SHIDA et al.

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

Docket No. 2002_0278A

Filed February 26, 2002

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HANDLING ARRAYED COMPONENTS
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/05672
Filed August 24, 2000]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Kindly replace the original abstract (page 112) with the enclosed substitute abstract. A copy of the marked-up changes to the abstract is attached and entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 16 and 19-20 without prejudice or disclaimer recited thereof.